

JAMAICA PLAIN

Play Across Boston

Active Facts



Play Across Boston (PAB) is a project of the Harvard Prevention Research Center at the Harvard School of Public Health undertaken in collaboration with Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in Society and a broad-based Community Advisory Board. PAB has worked since 1999 to describe youth sports and physical activity programs in Boston. Due to limited documentation of the local challenges to physical activity and sport promotion, **Play Across Boston** conducted a comprehensive community-based assessment of physical activity resources for Boston youth. In addition, we collected data concerning the presence and condition of publicly accessible parks, facilities and playgrounds in 12 Boston neighborhoods¹. For more detailed information, please refer to the full Play Across Boston Report (www.hsph.harvard.edu/prc).

As we work with our partners toward creating greater opportunities, **Play Across Boston** data provide a solid basis upon which to achieve our goals of improving community health and reducing disparities in physical activity access and participation. This **Active Facts** outlines the types of recreational programs and facilities available to **Jamaica Plain** youth.

Youth Sports and Physical Activities in Jamaica Plain

In 1999-2000, 18 different sports and physical activity programs² located in Jamaica Plain responded to the **Play Across Boston** survey. Of those 18 programs, many were non-profit and half did not charge a participation fee. Of the non-profit programs, most were provided by the Community Centers in Jamaica Plain. Figure 1 describes the types of programs available in Jamaica Plain and Boston overall.

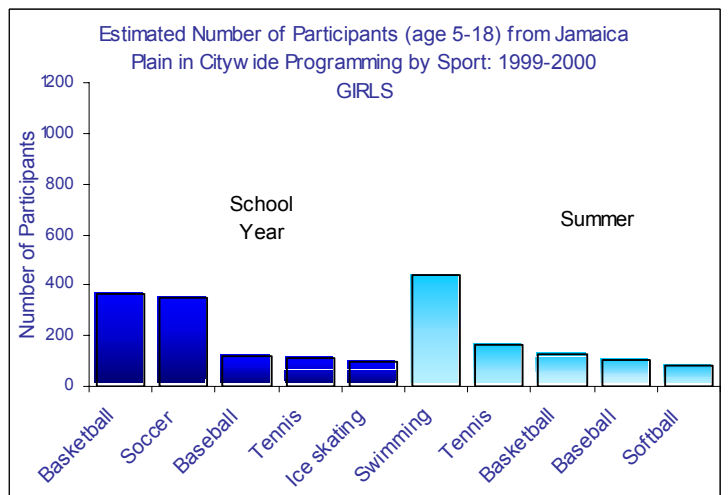
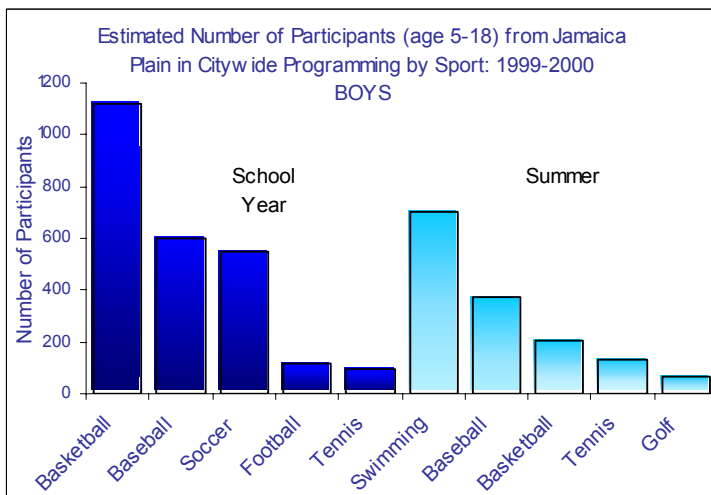
Figure 1: Types of Programs in Jamaica Plain Offering Sports and Physical Activities to Youth (1999-2000)

Type of Program	Number in Jamaica Plain	Number in Boston	% in Jamaica Plain
Non-Profit	15	155	10%
For Profit	0	18	0%
Boston Public School	2	35	6%
Non-public School	1	15	7%
Total	18²	223	8%

As for participation in citywide programs, Jamaica Plain youth represent about 9% of all youth sports and physical activity participation in Boston yet comprise 6% of Boston's 95,251 5-18 year olds. This means that Jamaica Plain youth participate at a higher level than youth from other neighborhoods. Of the many sports and activities offered throughout the city, basketball appears to be the favorite for boys during the school year and swimming appears to be the favorite during the summer. Girls preferred basketball and soccer during the school year and swimming during the summer. In Jamaica Plain, boys have a higher level of sports participation than girls.

¹ Data for some Boston neighborhoods were combined for the purposes of the Play Across Boston Report

² Includes only those programs who responded to the Play Across Boston Survey



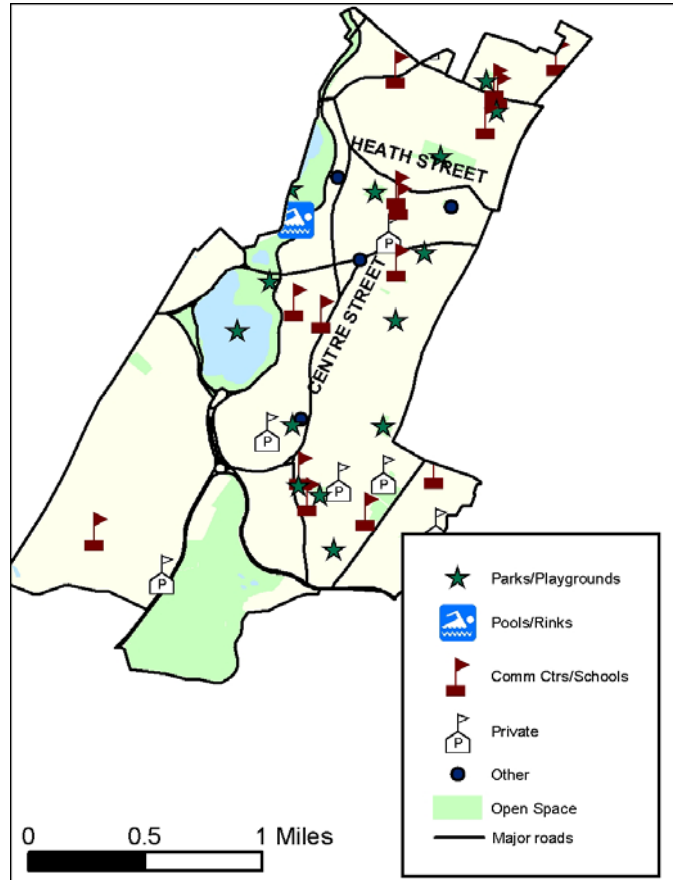
Recreational Facilities in Jamaica Plain

Parks, Playgrounds and Athletic Facilities in Jamaica Plain

As one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Boston, Jamaica Plain is filled with many parks, playgrounds and other facilities for youth sports and recreation. In 2000-2001, PAB surveyed 20 different public complexes in Jamaica Plain to document the types of facilities and amenities available. These sites included 5 parks and 6 playgrounds operated by the Parks & Recreation Department, 3 parks operated by the former MDC, currently the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), 3 Boston Community Centers and 3 Boston Community Schools (community centers housed within Boston Public Schools). In total, these complexes housed 15 playgrounds, 14 basketball courts (13 full courts), 3 baseball fields, 5 softball fields, 3 Little League fields, 4 tennis courts, 2 pools, and more! In addition, several private facilities in Jamaica Plain host youth sports activities. Unfortunately, assessments of playground quality indicate that Jamaica Plain playgrounds ranked low.

Jamaica Plain has...

- 15 Playgrounds
- 14 Basketball Courts
- 3 Baseball, 5 Softball, and 3 Little League fields ... and more!



Public Recreational Facilities in Jamaica Plain

	Jamaica Plain	Boston	% in Jamaica Plain
Overall Recreational Complexes	20	230	9%
Ball Fields			
Baseball	3	36	8%
Softball	5	69	7%
Little League	3	46	7%
Football	1	11	9%
Soccer	2	33	6%
Track	1	8	13%
Ball Courts			
Tennis	4	92	4%
Basketball (Full)	13	155	8%
Basketball (1/2 -court)	1	29	3%
Volleyball	1	10	10%
Street Hockey	1	17	6%
Other Recreational Facility Types			
Pool	2	28	7%
Studio	1	7	14%
Other Recreational Facility	7	35	20%
Playgrounds			
Playgrounds	15	155	10%
Schoolyard Initiative Sites	2	29	7%
Total	62	809	8%

Future Directions in Jamaica Plain

Jamaica Plain ranks high out of the 12 Boston neighborhoods¹ in its facilities per youth ratio indicating that relative to other neighborhoods in Boston, there are more facilities per 100 youth. Furthermore, Jamaica Plain ranks high in participation rates in sports and physical activity programs. Thus, to improve the resources available to youth in Jamaica Plain, Play Across Boston recommends maintaining efforts to keep youth, especially girls, involved in the programs available.

Information for this publication was obtained from Play Across Boston, Census 2000, and the City of Boston's website.

For more information on programs available in your neighborhood, please contact:
 Boston Centers for Youth & Families
 617-635-4920
www.cityofboston/bcyf
 or
 The Mayor's Youthline
 617-635-2240
www.bostonyouthzone.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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